

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Weiler Corp

Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center

Job Methods Improvement Increasing Gainsharing

Client Profile:

Weiler Corporation is a recognized world leader in the design and manufacture of surface conditioning accessories which include, power brushes, ranging in weight from less than an ounce to 100 pounds; abrasive products, filament and coated; and maintenance products, brooms, scrubs, sweeps. Weiler serves the industrial, retail and catalog markets and has its own direct national sales force. The company headquarters is located in Cresco, Pennsylvania. Weiler has operations in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts and has been a family business for over three generations currently employing over 400 people.

Situation:

Weiler is a forward thinking firm focusing on new technologies and growth. To utilize traditional industrial engineering work simplification methods in its shop floor gain sharing process improvement program as well as keep up with the demands of its clients, the company needed assistance in its efforts to identify and implement process improvement solutions. Weiler turned to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center, Inc. (NEPIRC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help with its gain sharing process improvement program.

Solution:

NEPIRC began by training the 100 Weiler co-workers in the Job Methods Improvement program (JMI) as well as 20 advisors and trainers in the Job Instruction Training (JIT) program. Co-workers from both Pennsylvania and Massachusetts plants participated in the JMI and JIT programs. Management and Implementation Teams were established and trained. Communication of the success of the activities was shared in plant wide as well as department meetings. In addition, a traveling easel was created and placed throughout the plant and offices. Opportunities for improvement were identified for the administrative as well as the manufacturing processes. Additional cycle time reductions were gained by reducing changeover time and improving material flow. Warehouse facilities were reviewed and new methods were implemented. Personnel from the various business units gained greater understanding by participating in cross functional teams during all activities. The plan is to continue the training program for all co-workers with more than one year of service.

Results:

- * Reduced manufacturing cycle time.
- * Implementation of more efficient manufacturing practices.
- * Improved fabrication and assembly processes.
- * Improved warehousing.
- * Reduced cost of fabrication and assembly.

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- * Trained employees in philosophy and implementation techniques behind new practices.
- * Improved process standardization and training.

Testimonial:

"Job Methods Improvement (JMI) gives the people the tools to identify opportunities for improvement and the ability to find a solution. Without this training, you are only uncovering a fraction of the opportunities in your business. Job Instruction Training (JIT) is the best system that I have seen for process training development. A consistent method to implement the process improvements found with JMI, and an efficient way to quickly make new co-workers productive. Everyone wants that knockout punch, but big productivity gains usually begin with small ideas. Cumulative, small process changes make a big difference in long term success and create a sustainable program to promote continuous improvement as your organization and business change."

Jim Teeple, Vice President of Operations